

Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following paragraph at line 13 of page 4 as follows:

Fig. 2A is a cross-sectional view of an alternate portion of a catheter;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 26 of page 8 as follows:

It is to be understood that the arrangement of the coils may be other than the one shown in Fig. 2. For example, as shown in Fig. 2A, the metal ribbon 140 may be first wound on the inner liner 132 and the non-metal ribbon 142 wound on top of the metal ribbon in the proximal section of the catheter. The non-metal ribbon 142 would then assist in holding down the metal ribbon 140. This lessens the tendency of the metal ribbon 140 to unwind and hence create bumps. The metal and non-metal ribbons 140, 142 may also be wound in the same direction, with ribbons being located adjacent one another. One or both of the stiffeners may also be formed with a double ribbon wind (not shown). For a double ribbon wind, a pair of ribbons is placed side by side and treated as a single ribbon. The braid is denser than the single ribbon wind. The number of ribbons, thickness of the ribbons, and pitch may also vary to further fine tune the stiffness of the catheter in the particular sections.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 13 of page 11 as follows:

Preferred polymeric materials for the inner liner 132 include fluoropolymers including PTFE, FEP, vinylidene fluoride, polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), ethyl vinyl acetate (EVA), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyimide, polyamide, polypropylene, polyfluorocarbons, polyurethane (Carbothane), polyether block amide (Pebax), styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene (SEBS), styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS), polysulfone polysulfone, and their mixtures, alloys, copolymers and block copolymers. Another useful class of polymers are thermoplastic elastomers, including those containing polyesters as components. Typical of this class is HYTREL. The inner liner 132 may be coated onto the inner surface of the stiffener. Polyesters and polyimides, in particular, are useful as adhesives in this service. The wall thickness of the inner liner 132 may be between 0.3 mil. and 3.0 mil., for example.